



News Release

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RPU seeks fed funding for 'Smart Grid'

RIVERSIDE, Calif. – Riverside Public Utilities (RPU) is campaigning to be one of the first medium-sized utilities in the country to be entirely on the 'smart grid.'

The utility is asking for \$9 million of federal stimulus dollars to partially fund the \$18 million endeavor. The decision will be announced by the Department of Energy in October.

Smart grid is a digital system that is less centralized, cleaner, more efficient, more reliable and more responsive than the century-old electrical grid the crisscrosses America today.

"Key benefits to our customers will be up-to-date, real-time information for them to make conscious energy conservation decisions as well as enhanced reliability by instant outage notification," said Steve Badgett, Deputy General Manager of RPU. "In addition, the project will reduce energy demand, reduce carbon emissions, create jobs and enable expansion of renewable energy generation."

That translates into big savings for customers at the meter. Using the smart grid technology, utilities would be able to monitor its meters remotely, while allowing residents to access their own usage pattern. Instead of ruing last month's utility bill after the fact, customers will be able to see their consumption in real time.

"This is an exciting opportunity for efficiency as well as customer satisfaction," Badgett said. "This is going to change a 100-year-old nationwide patchwork of wires into a modern system encompassing the generation, transmission, distribution and conservation of power. In the City of Arts and Innovation, this can truly be classified as the art of innovation."

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Established in 1895, Riverside Public Utilities is a consumer-owned water and electric utility governed by a board of nine community volunteers that provides high quality, reliable services to over 107,000 metered electric customers and 63,400 metered water customers throughout the City of Riverside. The Utility is committed to increased use of renewable energy resources and sustainable living practices that help reduce environmental impacts within the City of Riverside and the state of California.

www.RiversidePublicUtilities.com

www.GreenRiverside.com

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